

**James J. Hanna to Andrew Jackson, January 30, 1820,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

JAMES J. HANNA TO JACKSON.

Portsmouth, Va. , January 30, 1820.

D'r Sir, I fear our detention in this country has been a serious inconvenience to you and my mother.

We have used every exertion, but have been so unfortunate, as to take the wrong course and go to places where few negroes were for sale, and difficult to purchase. Had one of us come on here, at first, and the other gone to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, we should have been at home before this. I left Mr Clay about three weeks ago at Plymouth N. C. and yesterday received a letter from him stating, he had done nothing since I left him. I expect him here every day. Since my arrival here I have purchased five fellows for you viz Ned at \$450, Tom \$455, Argyle \$450, Titus \$460, and Ned \$475. Some of them are better bargains than others: but I dont consider any of them bad ones, they are all very likely and under 24 years of age, except Titus, who is 30, but is a very large strong likely fellow and represented to be very trusty. Ned, the highest priced one is an uncommon likely fellow about 22 years of age, and was supplied with his blankets and winter clothing. Tom, I was rather taken in with. I examined him while standing and after having paid the money and gotten the bill of sale, I was told he had a little halt in his walk, occasioned by a hurt in his hip in his youth, which has made one leg a little longer than the other. The defect is only in appearance. I think he will make as good a field negroe as any I have purchased. He has got about sense enought to do what he is told, and strength enough to do any thing.

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When Mr C. arrives I will get him to go to the Eastern Shore, and if there are as many negroes for sale, there, as has been represented to me, we may calculate on getting home about the 20th March. Please Give my respects to Mrs Jackson and allow me to call myself your Friend and obt. Servt.

[*Indorsement in Jackson's handwriting:*] Mr Jas Hanna's letter 30th January 1820—on the subject of the purchase of Negroes, five bot. their name[s] and prices as stated in the memorandum Book.

A. J